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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,642	11/15/2001	Brian Burton	37262-0003	3008

7590

11/20/2002

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EXAMINER

MULLINS, BURTON S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,642

Applicant(s)

BURTON ET AL.

Examiner

Burton S. Mullins

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the pressure-equalization fluid conduit or "internal flow path" (p.7, line 9) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy et al. (US 6,056,511) in view of Watson (US 5,286,220). Kennedy teaches a motor head (connection module 36; Figs.1&13; c.15 lines 33-35) for detachable attachment to a center or

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lower tandem motor 30A or 30B (Fig.3) of a modular electrical submersible pump (c.5, lines 45-48), said motor head 36 comprising: a first mechanical connector comprising a flanged coupling structure including flange 180 and fasteners 184 (Fig.13; c.13, line 61-c.14, line 5) configured for detachable attachment of the motor head to a top of a center tandem motor 30A; a second mechanical connector comprising a flanged coupling structure with fasteners (not numbered) for detachable attachment of the motor head to a bottom of a protector/seal section 38 (Fig.13); a rotating shaft 198 for power transfer between the motor 30 and the protector/seal section 38 (Fig.13); pressure-equalization fluid conduit 232; first electrical connector 250 connected to a power supply (not numbered, c.15, lines 9-14); and an electrical conduit 256 to convey electrical power from the first connector to the second connector (c.15, lines 24-26).

Though Kennedy teaches electrical connection between the first connector and the pump motor, Kennedy does not teach a second connector, per se.

Watson teaches an electrical cable construction or pothead for a submergible motor comprising a first connector 10, a second connector or terminal 28 for electrical connection to a cooperable terminal structure 30 at an end portion of a corresponding motor lead 32, with conductor 16 conveying power from the first connector 10 to the second connector 28.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kennedy's submersible motor pump with a pothead per Watson having a second connector connected to the first connector since the second connector would have been desirable to electrically connect to a cooperable terminal structure at the end portion of the motor lead, thus providing power to the submersible pump motor.

5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson (US 4,350,911) in view of Zehren (US 4,128,735). Wilson teaches a motor head for detachable attachment to a center tandem motor or a lower tandem motor of a modular electrical submersible pump, said motor head comprising: a first mechanical connector comprising a threaded flange section (not numbered) configured for detachable attachment of the motor head to a top of a center tandem motor 12 (see Fig.1B); a second mechanical connector comprising a flange/fastener means (not numbered) for detachable attachment of the motor head to a bottom of a protector/seal (equalizer) section 14 (Fig.1B); a rotating shaft (Fig.1B) for power transfer between the motor and the protector/seal section; pressure-equalization fluid conduit 162 (Fig.1B); first electrical connector 190 connected to a power supply (c.4, lines 61-66); and an electrical conduit (not numbered, Fig.1B) to convey electrical power from the first connector.

Though Wilson teaches electrical connection between the first connector and the pump motor, Wilson does not teach details of a second connector, per se.

Zehren teaches an attachment of electrical cable to submergible pump motor heads including pothead 20, conductors 32, and conventional terminals 60 connecting the exposed end of each conductor 32 with a corresponding end of each conductor 62 connected to the motor. Zehren's structure securely attaches the cable to the motor head and effectively seals the cable conductors (c.3, lines 38-49).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Wilson's submersible motor pump with a pothead per Zehren having a second connector connected to the first connector since the second connector would have been

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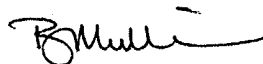
desirable to electrically connect the power cables to the motor lead in a secure and sealed manner.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Burton S. Mullins whose telephone number is 305-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 305-1341 for regular communications and 305-1341 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-0956.


Burton S. Mullins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2834

bsm
November 17, 2002